

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16848 271701Z

13
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

IO-13 SCA-01 CU-02 ORM-02 /079 W
----- 102929

R 271446Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 307
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
/AMEMBASSY OSLO 441
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16848

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CSCE, UR, FR, NO
SUBJECT: CSCE, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE - STANDOFF IN MOSCOW

REF: (A) MOSCOW 16644, (B) MOSCOW 16787

1. SUMMARY: SOVIETS HAVE NOW RELEASED FRENCH AND NORWEGIAN NATIONALS HELD FOR SEVERAL MONTHS FOR DISTRIBUTING "ANTI-SOVIET" LITERATURE. PRESS CARRIED STORIES OF THEIR RECANTATIONS JUST BEFORE THEY LEFT USSR, BUT BOTH HAVE DENIED VALIDITY OF PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS SINCE ARRIVING HOME. SOVIETS HAVE REPLIED IN PRAVDA TO FRENCHMAN'S STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL IN PARIS AND SOVIET DISSIDENTS HAVE VOICED CRITICISM OF FRANCE AND NORWAY FOR LACK OF OFFICIAL PROTEST. END SUMMARY

2. FRENCH NATIONAL, DETAINED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES SINCE JULY FOR DISTRIBUTING ANTI-SOVIET LITERATURE, HAS BEEN RELEASED AND SENT HOME WITHOUT JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS. LIKEWISE NORWEGIAN CITIZEN, EIDSVIG, WAS SHIPPED OFF TO OSLO OVER WEEKEND AFTER BEING HELD SINCE JULY ON SIMILAR COUNT (REF A). SOVIET LINE ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16848 271701Z

RELEASES IS THAT THEY ARE EVIDENCE OF "HUMANITY AND

MAGNANIMITY" IN TWO CASES WHICH JUSTIFIABLY DESERVED HARSHER PENALTIES.

3. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE BOTH MEN APPARENTLY SUBMITTED TO INTERVIEWS FOR SOVIET MEDIA AND, BASED ON STATEMENTS MADE IN THOSE TALKS, STORIES HAVE APPEARED IN SOVIET PRESS WHICH AMOUNT TO FULL CONFESSIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR THEIR ACTIONS. PORTIONS OF FRENCHMAN'S INTERVIEW WERE CARRIED ON SOVIET TELEVISION OCTOBER 20 (REF A). PRAVDA RAN TIRAT'S "CONFESSION" SAME DAY WHILE LESS PRESTIGIOUS KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA (ORGAN OF CPSU YOUTH ORGANIZATION) CARRIED NORWEGIAN'S MEA CULPA AS DID TV ON OCTOBER 24. BOTH PIECES WERE CAREFULLY DRAWN TO PORTRAY SOVIET STATE AND POLICE APPARATUS IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT AND MADE GENEROUS USE OF APPARENT NAIVETE OF BOTH MEN ABOUT SOVIET LIFE AND SOCIETY. FACT THAT THEY WERE WELL TREATED DURING CAPTIVITY WAS PLAYED UP TO DEMONSTRATE "HUMANE" SOVIET PENAL SYSTEM.

4. SINCE THEIR ARRIVAL HOME BOTH MEN HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY WESTERN PRESS AND HAVE DENIED ACCURACY OF SOVIET PRESS STORIES. PRAVDA, OCTOBER 23, REPORTED TIRAT'S FRENCH TV DENIAL IN LONGISH PIECE ENTITLED "STRANGE ESCAPE." GIST OF ITEM IS THAT TIRAT IS BEING USED BY WESTERN PRESS AND FRENCH AUTHORITIES (FRENCH POLICE GET SPECIAL MENTION AS CULPRITS) TO GIVE A "SLANTED TREATMENT" TO TIRAT CASE. SUCH EFFORTS "LOOK VERY UNATTRACTIVE" ACCORDING TO PRAVDA. SO FAR NO PRESS REACTION TO EIDSVIG'S COUNTER-THRUST HAS APPEARED.

5. NTS ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH TWO MEN APPARENTLY WORKED IS, OF COURSE, PORTRAYED AS BLATANTLY ANTI-SOVIET WITH "LINKS" TO CIA. FOLLOWING RELEASE OF MEN, MOSCOW BRANCH OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL RELEASED STATEMENT TO WESTERN PRESS IN MOSCOW AS PROJECTED (REF B). DISSIDENTS PORTRAY EVENTS AS CONTRAVENTION OF CSCE COMMITMENTS OF USSR CONTAINED IN HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF RIGHTS OF MAN.

6. COMMENT: SOVIET HANDLING OF THESE TWO CASES STRONGLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 16848 271701Z

SUGGESTS THAT FROM START OFFICIALS WERE BUILDING A CASE FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE IN DEFENDING THEMSELVES AGAINST WESTERN ATTACKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. QUICK REPUDIATION OF "INTERVIEWS" BY FRENCHMAN AND NORWEGIAN AND DISSIDENT STATEMENT SEEMS EFFECTIVELY TO SQUELCH POSSIBILITY THAT CASES WILL BE USEFUL IN FUTURE SHOULD SOVIETS NEED AMMUNITION FOR CSCE OR ELSEWHERE. ON OTHER HAND APPARENT LACK OF PUBLIC PROTEST BY FRENCH AND NORWEGIAN

GOVERNMENTS OF DETENTION OF THEIR NATIONALS UNDERCUTS
ANY USE OF CASE AGAINST SOVIETS. THUS, IT LOOKS
FROM HERE LIKE A STANDOFF, DUE PRIMARILY TO RAPID
REACTION OF ACCUSED AND MOSCOW DISSIDENTS. MATLOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DETENTE, JEWS, LITERATURE, PRISONERS RELEASE, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, ANTI-COMMUNIST
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW16848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760401-0829
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761014/aaaaaliu.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 16644, 76 MOSCOW 16787
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSCE, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE - STANDOFF IN MOSCOW
TAGS: PGOV, UR, FR, NO, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006